



# Attention California Ocean Salmon Anglers Please check your catch!



Large numbers of coho salmon are being caught this season in California's ocean waters. Although it's likely that most of these salmon originated from hatcheries in the Columbia River Basin, some of these fish are coastal coho which are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Thus the retention of coho salmon is PROHIBITED in all California ocean fisheries. Please take the time to correctly identify each salmon caught before removing it from the water. All coho must be released.



To help avoid contacting coho salmon:

Rig to fish deeper - coho are more often in top 30 ft of water.

Fish nearshore for chinook - coho are usually more offshore.

Use larger lures that select for large chinook and reduce coho catch.

[For additional information, please contact the Department's  
Ocean Salmon Project @ \(707\) 576-2870](#)

Note: A few pink (*O. gorbuscha*) salmon have also been caught this season. Pink salmon are generally smaller than chinook and coho salmon and can be identified by the large, oval-shaped spots found on their back and on both lobes of the caudal fin. Their scales are very small and number over 168 in the row above the lateral line. The minimum size limit in California for pink salmon is 20 inches total length. The daily bag/possession limit remains 2 salmon of any species except coho.

\*Photo by CDFG Warden Bob Aldrich